

THE LANE COUNTY NEWS

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And Remember to Get a Stop-Over for Springfield.

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WHY WE DEMAND RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW.

It has seemed to many citizens that the American government, in insisting that international law be respected, was blind to the fact that warfare has changed since these laws were framed.

The refusal of the United States to accept Britain's blockade by manifesto in lieu of actual blockade, the demand upon Germany that the lives of non-combatants be safeguarded—these appeared to ignore the fact that a blockade of the old encircling form was impossible in these days of mines, that it was obviously impossible for a sub-marine to remove to itself the crews and passengers of vessels sank.

The world moves, the critics of our government's position say, and international law must conform to the changing world.

The American government fully recognizes that international law will have to be modified, but it believes these modifications must be brought about formally, in such wise that they may be solemnly discussed and agreed to by nations concerned. For if two or three or four laws and agreements are to be thrown into the discard at the convenience of belligerents, why should any of the rest of the laws and agreements be observed and respected? What shall prevent the lot of them going overboard?

Britain proposes to starve Germany without running such risks as the North ran in our Civil war when it undertook to starve the South. That law overridden, then there is no reason why the United States should uphold the law which provides Canada with protection from invasion through the United States. Germany is sinking ships without seeing to it that innocent men, women, and children are removed to places of safety, or allowed to take to the boats. Since America has suffered by reason of this defiance of a long-standing international law, she might if she choose, say that British men-of-war may enter our harbors and destroy interned German merchantmen and sink the three German warships which have come to us for asylum.

Our government is seeking to uphold international law and custom in order that the mass of it be saved. It is filing protests, making demands, in order that the world shall not sink to that level of barbarism existing before treaties were signed, compacts sworn to, conferences held to mitigate the horrors and the ferocity of war.—Forest Grove News-Times.

LARGER PUBLIC UTILITY PLANTS.

The tendency all over the United States is the consolidation of utility plants into larger units.

At a Panama Exposition convention June 10, it was shown

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RATES LOW.

Lane County News

by statistics that the telephone companies with an annual income of \$5,000 or more, have decreased in number 53.8 per cent in the last ten years, but the number of telephones has increased 216.4 per cent and the number per 1000 of population from 30 to 90.

At the same time the estimated number of messages or talks classified as local exchange, has increased 170.5 per cent and those classified as long distance or toll, 182.3 per cent.

While the companies taken as a whole have shown such a marked decrease in number along with an extraordinary growth in equipment, number of patrons, etc., the smaller systems reporting an annual income of less than \$5,000 including farmer or rural lines, have also shown a substantial increase both as to number and equipment.

The growth of interurban mileage of both telephone companies and electric railways, the growth of the electric light and power industry, including development of water powers, and especially the marked tendency in the latter industry for the large central generating plant with transmission lines to displace the small independent plant, are all facts neither fully known nor appreciated by the public generally.

CANAL BUSINESS

The amount of ocean traffic which is being sent through the Panama Canal is regarded as highly satisfactory, all things considered. Preliminary reports indicate that the tolls received from vessels passing through the canal for the fiscal year that will end on June 30 will be sufficient to meet all running expenses and lay the foundation for a surplus.

Business through the canal has been increasing steadily in the last few months. Under ordinary circumstances the canal would have been a profit earner from the first, but the world's commerce was disorganized by the European war. The success of the canal in the first year of its operation is a complete vindication of the action of congress in repealing the tolls exemption clause of the Panama canal act. Had coastwise shipping been permitted to use the canal without tonnage charge there would have been a large deficit instead of a modest surplus at the close of the first year's operations. As it is, the canal promises to be a successful commercial venture and a benefit to trade.—Polk County Observer.

WHEN RAILROADS PROSPER.

"Crop prospects are fine, and with the gathering of the great harvest, times ought to become prosperous again," says W. R. Scott, general manager of the Southern Pacific system.

"The prosperity of the country depends to a remarkable extent on the railroads," continued Mr. Scot. "When the railroads prosper, the influence extends to all branches of business and industry. Mines, forests, mills and farms all supply greater demands when the railroads are active. When returns on investments are assured, funds for development and extension on railroad lines will be available."

Under opposite conditions, when railroads have empty trains, there are no funds for improvements.

And it was just a year ago today that the European war really began with the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand and his wife.

"IN EARLY DAYS"

By Fred Lockley, Special Staff Writer The Oregon Journal, Portland

A few days ago at Springfield I fell into talk with John Sidney Montgomery, an Oregon pioneer of 1853. "I was born in old Missouri on August 16, 1836," said Mr. Montgomery. "My mother died when I was 2 years old. When I was 13 years old my two older brothers and myself started for California. Andrew, my oldest brother, was 25 years old. We crossed the Missouri at Council Bluffs on the second of May, 1850, and we pulled into Hangtown, Calif., on the twelfth day of October. All three of us went to work in the mines, but I was too frail to handle a pick and shovel, so they put me to hunting. I got good prices for all the deer and other game I killed.

"In 1853 I came up to the Willamette valley on horseback. I stopped near the present town of Cottage Grove. I was only 17, but I took up a claim. I built a cabin and batched. I split rails for all the neighbors thereabouts. I didn't look over 15, in fact. I never weighed a hundred pounds until I was over 21. Some of the newcomers fussed about me trying to hold a claim when I wouldn't be of age for four years, so I turned my claim over to my brother Martin. I hired out to Parton & Calbreath, who sent me down into the Rogue river country to herd stock for them. Martin went back to California. He went to work in a cinabar mine and got quick silver and died.

"In 1855 I enlisted at Eugene in Captain Matlock's company for the Rogue River Indian war. See this scar on my head? That was made by one of those black obsidian arrow heads going through my hand. This broad scar on my arm was where an arrow went through. It had an arrow head made out of hoop iron. The nastiest wound I got in a fight on the Big Meadows on Evans creek. I got an arrow through my leg. It stuck out about eight inches. I broke it

off and pulled the arrow out and went on fighting. I tied up the wound, but my leg began swelling. My leg got so big my trousers were skin tight. They took me to a barn and I lay on the barn floor for 22 days. The doctor said I had blood poison and he got out his kit of saws and knives to take off my leg near the hip. I refused to have it cut off. He insisted and said I would die if it didn't come off. I said I would die with all my legs on, so he said all right, go ahead and die. An old German came in and saw me. He said, "Don't let them saw your leg off." He came back with some stuff in a big bottle that smelled like horse liniment. He made a fire and got some water scalding hot and put a blanket around my leg and poured that hot water on. For hours he kept soaking my leg in water so hot it nearly took the skin off. He would pour the medicine into the wound and he told me to keep the cloth on the wound soaked with the medicine. It burnt like fire but I kept the cloth wet with it. Next day my leg was all over wrinkles, but it was a heap smaller. In a day or two it was the same size as the other leg, and pretty soon the wound quit running and healed up.

"After the Rogue River war was over, Frank Drew, the Indian agent, asked for an escort of soldiers to take Old Sam's band of Indians to the Siletz reservation. I was one of the guards. Old Sam was a well built man and stout as a horse. He looked like a thoroughbred and was very brave. If he hadn't been a pesky Indian he would have been considered a handsome and courageous man.

"I didn't think so then, but I know now that the Rogue River Indian war was the white man's fault. If I had been an Indian I would have fought, too. The bad white men would get full of booze and bother the young squaws and pretty young girls,

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and when the Indian men would resent it, the drunken white would shoot the Indians. Some of those Indians were certainly good fighters. I'll say this for them: The Indians always kept their word. The white men never did. In 1858 I was married to Eliza Jane Boren of Cottage Grove.

One Indian fight of the Rogue River war that has been described to me by several different Indian war veterans is the battle of Log Cabins, on the south fork of Applegate creek, near the line of Jackson and Josephine counties. In the fall of 1855 two prospectors built two log cabins to winter in. While they were in Jacksonville getting supplies about 30 Indians

went into the cabins and fortified themselves against attack. The prospectors, upon returning, found the hostile Indians in possession of their cabins. They went to Sterlingville, 30 miles distant, to secure help. Dr. Myers, John Deadmon, Robert Opp, Jack Bogard, George Mantel, S. A. Mowdes, John Goldsby, Ira Mayfield and about 20 others came with them to dispose of the Indians. The volunteers laid siege to the cabin. Dr. Myers crawled up to a tree that forked about five feet from the ground. He put his gun through the forks. As he was taking sight he was shot through the forehead and killed. George Mantel and some others cut a

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